

HAK Mahon

MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

RSE
update
INFORMATIONSECRET

June 28, 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR:

DR. KISSINGER

FROM:

RICHARD T. KENNEDY *RTK*

SUBJECT:

Radio Free Europe

Senator Ellender included funding for RFE in the CRA for USIA. We are therefore in the clear for now. Mr. Mahon's staff said this would give the House Committee no trouble. (We asked MacGregor to call Mahon on your behalf and thank him for his efforts to keep it in CIA, explaining that the Senate opposition simply made this unworkable.)

Our next hurdle is the permanent financing:

- The Administration's proposal for a public corporation (the Case bill) has not moved yet.
- The CRA will provide financing until the close of the present session of Congress (not expected before mid-September and probably later).
- We could go forward now with an amendment to the USIA appropriations bill to assure financing for the full year in the event the Case bill does not move, or
- We could wait until near the end of the session and include the financing via USIA in the blanket supplemental. (This probably would have to go up early in September - Congress always acts on the supplemental before the close of the session.)

Jim Schlesinger and I discussed this, and Jim consulted with Alex Johnson. We are agreed that the wisest course is to wait for the supplemental. This will give the Administration time to press for enactment of the Case bill (Alex Johnson has mounted some push to this end). It also will avoid giving the Committees an excuse for not dealing with the bill, which they would have if financing were already

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included in the USIA regular appropriations due to close in the Senate Appropriations Committee the end of this week.

We will continue to watch this closely and urge MacGregor to keep pushing in support of State's efforts in behalf of the Case bill.

SECRET

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

SECRET

June 22, 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR:

THE PRESIDENT

FROM:

HENRY A. KISSINGER

SUBJECT:

Financing Radio Free Europe
and Radio Liberty

You agreed yesterday to call Chairman Ellender of the Senate Appropriations Committee to try to persuade him to acquiesce in the continued funding of Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty via the CIA appropriation as an interim arrangement under the continuing resolution. Congressman Mahon, Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, agreed yesterday to such an arrangement. Senator Ellender, however, now reportedly wants to introduce legislation specifically prohibiting continued funding under the CIA appropriation.

Nevertheless, I believe there is a 50-50 chance that Senator Ellender will change his mind if you intercede. Because of the complications of USIA funding or other "open" alternatives, it is important to employ Presidential pressure even though the outcome is uncertain.

RECOMMENDATION:

That you call Senator Ellender using the attached Talking Points (Tab A) requesting his acquiescence in continuing the present funding arrangement for Radio Liberty and Radio Free Europe.

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TALKING POINTS

-- You are calling concerning an interim arrangement for funding Radio Liberty and Radio Free Europe after June 30, 1971 because you understand the Senator may want to prohibit continuation of the present arrangement.

-- The Administration, in its bill to establish the American Council for Private International Communications, Inc., accepted the principle of overt grants to Radio Liberty and Radio Free Europe. The Council would account to the Congress and its responsible committees for proper use of grants.

-- Although some feel these Radios are an anachronism in the 1970's, you believe that these operations remain relevant and essential:

- . Because of the controlled media in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, these Radios provide information which is not normally available to citizens of those countries.

- . These stations have a large audience, particularly during periods of crisis, and it is important that this source of information not be interrupted.

- . The Voice of America does not have the flexibility to provide the range of information of RFE and RL. The private nature of the Radios enables them to provide objective reports and independent comment, free of the charge of speaking for the U.S. Government and thus complicating diplomatic relations.

-- We have explored various "open" means for interim funding and believe there is no desirable alternative to the Administration's bill before the Congress at the present time.

-- You, therefore, want Senator Ellender to accept on a temporary basis the funding of Radio Liberty and Radio Free Europe via CIA under the continuing resolution until the Administration bill or an acceptable alternate is approved by the Congress.

-- You understand Congressman Mahon is agreeable to this arrangement.

-- Since it is now well known that this is the existing arrangement there is no longer any validity to charges that the Radios are being secretly funded.

-- Because of the drawbacks to other temporary arrangements you hope that the Senator will not oppose a continuation of the present procedure and will lend his backing to the Administration's bill to create a corporation.